

IN THE CLAIMS

2. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pivotal joint between said first and second portions allows pivotal motion in at least two orthogonal planes perpendicular to the axis of said first elongate portion.
3. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pivotal joint is a spherical joint.
4. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said spherical joint comprises a spherical formation defined by one of said first and second portions, and a socket defined by the other of said first and second portions to receive said spherical formation.
5. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4 further comprising a pneumatic actuator connected to said first rod end.
6. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the pneumatic actuator comprises a spring loaded diaphragm housed within a pressure chamber, said diaphragm being attached to said first rod end.
7. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a valve assembly, end of said actuating rod being connected to said actuator and the other end being connected to said valve assembly, whereby the pneumatic actuator controls operation of the valve assembly via the actuator rod.

8. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the valve assembly further comprises a lever arm extending from and connected to a valve, said second portion of the actuator rod being secured to said lever arm extending from the valve assembly by way of which the valve is operated.

9. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said second portion of the actuator rod is welded to said lever arm.

Q2 ¹⁰ 11. (Amended) The method according to claim ⁹ ~~10~~, wherein the actuator rod is secured to the lever arm by welding or otherwise bonding.

11 ¹⁰ 12. (Amended) The method according to claim ¹⁰ ~~11~~, wherein prior to securing the actuator rod to the lever arm, the valve assembly is held in a closed position by appropriate clamping of the lever arm and said pneumatic actuator is pressurized to a predetermined pressure, thereby to determine the minimum pressure at which said valve will in use begin to open.